



Donald W. Mott

Psychological Services



September 7, 2019

Daniel P. Collins, J.D., Executive Director
NC Psychology Board
895 State Farm Road, Suite 101
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Dr. Collins:

Thank you for your work on behalf of North Carolina's citizens and psychologists. This letter is to express strong support for the **proposed rule change under 21 NCAC 54.2008**.

I am an LPA who has been licensed since 1979. I served on the North Carolina Psychology Board from 1981 to 1983, including a term as Vice Chairperson and a term as Chairperson. I also served on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Psychological Association as Master's Level Representative from 1980 to 1981. I retired from the State of North Carolina after serving for 29 years as Staff Psychologist, Senior Coordinator, and Senior Research Associate at Western Carolina Center, now the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center. I was an Adjunct Instructor at Lenoir-Rhyne College for 10 years and I operated a private practice for more than 30 years. I was Chief Clinical Officer and am currently Senior Advisor at Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare, a comprehensive behavioral health provider annually serving approximately 6,000 unduplicated consumers in Catawba and Burke Counties. The professional experiences described above shaped my professional identity and my beliefs about the practice of psychology in North Carolina. Most importantly, they convinced me that the citizens of North Carolina benefit tremendously from the services provided by master's level psychologists. I believe strongly that the most important driving force behind any changes that are made to the licensure status of master's level psychologists must be the welfare of North Carolina's citizens.

Given that master's level counselors, master's level social workers, and master's level marriage and family therapists have substantially similar training to master's level psychologists and given that those professional groups each have a pathway to independent practice, I believe strongly that it is in the best interest of North Carolina's citizens to allow master's level psychologists to practice independently as well. I know of no research that indicates that treatment by master's level psychologists is in any way inferior to that provided by other master's level professionals. In the absence of such research, **North Carolina's citizens deserve the right to choose whether to receive treatment from a psychologist, a social worker, a family therapist, or a counselor. To be competitive in the market place and to assure long-term economic viability of master's level psychologists as a profession, master's level psychologists must have parity with other master's level professionals.** Anything less than parity eventually will result in less resources available to the citizens of North Carolina and will make other resources more expensive. This is particularly important in light of the increasing costs of health care. I urge the NC Psychology Board to do what is best for North Carolina's citizens.

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed by Donald W. Mott, 9/7/19 at 10:17 a.m.

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